

DENTAL SCHOOL APPLICATION TIMELINE—Junior & Senior Year

Junior Year—Fall

Balance the number of science courses per term. Explore available options to prepare for the Dental Admissions Test (DAT)*.

Contact DAT Program directly and register for the test.

Continue volunteering & leadership activities.

Investigate dental schools: check their homepages on the Internet, purchase *AADS Admission Requirements of U.S. and Canadian Dental Schools, ASDA Handbook, etc.*

Request Letters of Recommendation for AADSAS submission (opens mid-May). Letters from 2 science faculty + 1 employer + 1 dentist usually meets dental school requirements. ** †

Explore an "Open House" at dental schools you plan to apply to--traditionally offered in spring and summer.

Junior Year—Spring

Contact Prometric Registration Center*** to arrange day, time, and place to take the DAT – a notice of at least 48 hours is required.

Take DAT when ready. (A candidate must wait at least 90 days before retaking the DAT.)

Review DAT scores in relation to specific schools' admissions criteria. Decide where to apply.

Access AADSAS**** application on the web. Carefully review directions.

Develop a personal essay and have it reviewed by a number of people you trust: advisors, The Writing Center, faculty members, etc.

Order transcripts after fall term grades appear for AADSAS--from UW-Madison and any other institution(s) attended.

Summer

Submit your AADSAS application as soon after June 1 as possible. Send official transcripts.

Contact non-AADSAS schools for application materials if applicable.

Register for and take/retake the DAT, as appropriate.

Complete and return secondary applications promptly. Carefully follow schools' instructions concerning the modalities and timelines for submission of letters of reference.

Attend dental schools' open houses, if possible.

Continue to stay informed about issues in dental education, practice, etc.

Senior Year—Fall

Continue volunteering & leadership activities.

Continue working on secondary applications as appropriate. Send letters of reference with secondary application materials as *instructed by individual schools*.

Complete Financial Aid applications.

Practice interviewing skills for upcoming dental school interviews.

Interview offers are extended. Plan trips in accordance with your academic schedule and by location of the schools.

Await decisions. Consider factors important to you in selecting a dental school.

Due to the competitiveness of the application process, consider alternate options and plan accordingly.

* Dental Admission Testing Program, American Dental Association, 211 E. Chicago Ave., Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60611. (800) 232-2162. <http://www.ada.org>.

** Some Dental Schools may require alternate Letters of Recommendation. For information on submitting additional letters, contact the L & S Advising Services office.

*** Prometric Registration Center = 800-688-5804 or <http://www.prometric.com>

**** AADSAS = American Association of Dental Schools Application Service, 1400 K Street NW, Suite 1100, Washington DC 20005. (800) 353-2237 or (202) 289-8123. <http://www.adea.org/DAS/AADSAS/default.htm>

† -- To make Letters of Recommendation as easy as possible on your professors, dentists, employers, etc., follow these guidelines: 1) A letter explaining clearly all the information about the letter of recommendation: why you need it, why you have requested them to write the letter, your full name, the format of the letter, who the letter should be addressed to (for example, "Dear Admissions Committee:" or "To Whom it may concern"), suggestions of what may be helpful to the school's admissions committee. 2) A resumé of your work experiences and activities. 3) Copies of your academic transcripts. 4) A list of "highlights" – things you'd like them to know about you. 5) Information on submitting to AADSAS. 6) A generous expression of gratitude for their efforts.